
Washington State Department of Health
2006 Early Warning System Summary for
Shellfish Growing Areas in Pierce County



The Department of Health (DOH) places shellfish growing areas in a “Threatened” or “Concerned” status based on our assessment of threats to the growing area’s classification. This assessment is currently based on the identification of pollution sources that may impact public health, and/or how close a water sampling station’s bacteria levels are to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program’s (NSSP) standards. The latter has been the most common and is described below.

The NSSP prescribes two methods to evaluate fecal coliform levels at water sampling stations to classify growing areas: Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) and Adverse Pollution Conditions (APC). Both use a minimum of the last 30 samples. With the SRS method, the 90th percentile cannot exceed 43 fc/100mL. With the APC method, no more than 10% of the samples can exceed 43 fc/100mL. If any of these standards are exceeded, no shellfish can be directly harvested from the area of that station.

A Threatened status is assigned in SRS growing areas when a water sampling station’s 90th percentile is between 30 and 43 fc/100mL. In APC growing areas, a threatened status is assigned if more than 6.6% of the samples have exceeded 43 fc/100mL. A concerned status is assigned where a water sampling station’s 90th percentile is greater than 20, but less than 30. DOH is providing this information to county governments so that corrective actions can take place before water quality at the listed stations fails the shellfish standards.

ANDERSON ISLAND GROWING AREA

Station Number 269 Concerns due to water quality

BURLEY LAGOON GROWING AREA

Station Number 336 Threatened due to water quality

Station Number 342 Threatened due to water quality

Station Number 339 Concerns due to water quality

FILUCY BAY GROWING AREA

Station Number 279 Threatened due to water quality

Station Number 274 Concerns due to water quality

Station Number 278 Concerns due to water quality

FOX ISLAND GROWING AREA

Station Number 347 Concerns due to water quality

HENDERSON BAY GROWING AREA

Station Number 312 Concerns due to water quality

ROCKY BAY GROWING AREA

Station Number 22 Threatened due to water quality

WEST KEY PENINSULA GROWING AREA

Station Number 40 Concerns due to water quality

Station Number 556 Concerns due to water quality